

## **AKHILA BHARATIYA HARIKATHA UTSAV**

In every state of India, there is an age old tradition of storytelling style. However there are also purana pravachanas which are performed in temples. Apart from those performed in sabhas in the form of Harikatha, there is also a parallel folk tradition in every state like the shadow theatre called Tolpavaikoothu, puppet shows called Bommalattam and Villupattu, the bow story style. This Utsav will invite performers belonging to the temple story telling traditions, the Harikatha artistes and the story tellers of the folk tradition along with PhD scholars who have worked on story telling styles from various states like Maharashtra, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. It is also proposed to encourage youth who have taken up this art by giving them an opportunity to showcase their talent. Other religious stories and secular themes are also proposed to be taken up.

This utsav is being planned for five days and will include a talk on the style of one state per session along with a religious purana pravachana, a Harikatha and rashtriya kirtan (patriotic story), a folk story telling session on village deities or traditional concepts. Professionals will be invited from various parts of the country giving them the travelling expense and allowances for the day apart from their remuneration.

The various regional forms that will be featured are as under:

### **Tamil Nadu**

- Upanyasam
- Harikatha
- Villupattu

### **Karnataka**

- Harikatha

### **Andhra Pradesh**

- Burrakatha
- Harikatha

### **West Bengal**

- Jathra
- Pandavani

### **Maharashtra**

- Keerthan – Naradiya Keerthan & Varkariya Keerthan
- Lavani

### **Kerala**

- Padagam
- Chakiyar Koothu
- Kathaprasangam

A few artistes who will be featured are Karunakarachar, Kalyanapuram Aravamudachar, Subbu Arumugam, Badragiri Achyutadas, Suchitra and so on.